

The COMMONWEALTH

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Tuesday, August 22, 1916.

MARTIN WANTS STOCK-LAW

We learn from reliable sources that the citizens of this end of Martin county are preparing to protest against the re-building of the old fence along the Halifax and Edgecombe lines. The parties of our information are among the county's best farmers and their watchword is "progress." They want their county to have stock-law as Halifax and Edgecombe have, and have plans well-laid for a better system of public roads. We understand that there is a government cattle quarantine over Martin county at the present time, and the report as we hear it is that the quarantine will not be lifted any time soon. It seems to us that if the commissioners of Martin would grant an election for the purpose of ascertaining the sentiment on stock-law, they would find out just how progressive the citizens are. The money now expended in building and maintaining fences should be going toward goods roads, a thing in which Martin is sadly lacking. Halifax has too few of this great need. We hope to see our sister county abolish the old law of permitting stock to run at large, and it will not be a great while before the Texas cattle tick will be a thing of the past. Modern methods are the making of any county.

SALAMAGUNDI

Changed Hands.
A New York man tried to carry on an argument with his wife, but as soon as he started she took the subject away from him and carried it on herself.

Lucky "131"
Thirteen days by the count since the ex-King of the stamped Moose gave forth a single war cry. Another instance of where silence is golden.—News and Observer.

How 'Bout it, Herb?
Herbert Kaufman says that those people who know nothing always want to talk about it. Herbert ought to know, as he does a lot of it himself.—Tarboro Southerner.

No, Never!
History says George Washington never told a lie, but even if he ever did so it would be scandalous for history to mention it. History itself has never claimed that it never told a lie.

He'll Change his mind.
It will be hard on Mr. Haghe; to have to live in this country for the next four years if he does not happen to be made president, considering what he thinks of the present administration.

Capable of Covering.
A young woman went in bathing and afterwards couldn't find her clothes. Perhaps, some blamed old sander was sitting on them and she couldn't see them, speaking after the manner of the brevity in dress these days.—Wilmington Dispatch.

Ignorance Beneficial.
Perhaps it is well that that merchant commander mistook the Deutschland for a sailing vessel. If he had realized that she was a submarine he might have hurt himself getting away.—Greensboro News.

This is Not Fair.
Whether some editors are hard to suit or not, there are those who are against Wilson for some things he has done, are opposed to Hughes because he talks too much and says nothing, can't stand for Sulzer because he is a joke on himself, and don't like Hanly because he is for national prohibition.—Wilmington Star.

"What Do You Know?"
How many times have you been asked that identical question by the editor of this paper? Too many times to remember, perhaps.

Now let us suggest that you change the accepted order of procedure for one that would be a vast improvement. Instead of waiting for us to ask you, suppose you just take the initiative and tell us, or write us, or phone us what you know in the nature of news. That little piece of information you have revolving around in your cranium may not be of great importance to you, but to others it may be of vital interest—may even be of considerable value. Every piece of news you read in this paper we have received from some source or other. The efforts of these people make the paper of greater interest and value to you. Now suppose you reciprocate and do as much for them. Tell us what you know.—Roanoke Rapids Herald.

THE TOWN GOSSIP.

(With Apologies to Carl Goerch.)

Yesterday afternoon While I was sitting In my office Trying to think Of a good subject On which to write An editorial, Or a story of interest; My mind commenced to ramble And I thought of Carl Goerch Of Washington, N. C., Who is a good fellow, And who holds a job As editor of a paper. And I took a notion To try to pull off Some of his stuff To help fill up This space of mine. So I began To write this junk And I think Its pretty good, For the first trial. But I am going To tell just what I started out to say: I believe in advertising So I chalked off a sign On my bulletin board Which sits at the front Of the Commonwealth office Which in substance Was an earnest plea To the good people To send us the news— And I watched that sign For an hour or two And not less than A hundred people Read every word of it— And I am more convinced Than ever That it pays To advertise. I thank you.

The Proposed Constitutional Amendments.

So little has been said about the proposed constitutional amendments that we suspect a large proportion of the citizens of the State had forgotten that the electorate is to adopt or reject four amendments to the constitution of North Carolina at the general election next November. There are four of these proposed amendments and they were submitted to the vote of the people by the Legislature of 1915. The large number of people throughout the State who for years have realized the necessity for some changes in the fundamental law of the commonwealth will be gratified to note that a special campaign is to be waged between now and the November election to inform the people of the proposed amendments, why they are necessary and what will be the effect of their adoption.

It is proposed that if these amendments fail of adoption it will not be through default, as was the case largely when ten amendments were submitted to the voters in 1913. It is proposed that the people shall be informed of the four amendments so that they will take interest enough to vote on them and to vote intelligently on the merits of each amendment proposed. In addition to indifference, there were two notable causes that contributed to the defeat of the amendments proposed in 1913. One was the fact that so many amendments were submitted at once. The result was lack of concentration of effort and focus of attention upon any one. The other was the fact that one of the amendments proposed a radical change in our system of revenue and taxation, and the people are decidedly "from Missouri" when it comes to "tampering" with the fundamental law regulating taxes.

The amendments to be voted on this year start out with the two distinct advantages of being only four in number and not involving the matter of taxation. Therefore, if a campaign of tensiveness enough to thoroughly inform the electorate as to the necessity for and the effects of these amendments, there would seem to be a good chance for their adoption.

The four amendments are virtually the same as those submitted by the Legislature of 1913 as numbers three, four, eight and nine. One of them is designed to prevent delays in trials by providing emergency judges. The apparent necessity for this provision has been forcibly brought home to a number of counties in the State this year by the continued illness of Judge Cooke and the death of Judge Peebles. In some counties the dockets have been piled up, numbers of terms of court have been missed and trials of numerous cases have necessarily been long delayed to the inconvenience, expense, annoyance, and injustice of parties to the suits, while those charged with crime have been denied prompt trials of their cases. With this proposed amendment to the constitution in effect, the Governor might have commissioned an able lawyer or even a former judge to go to these counties, hold the terms of court on scheduled time, clear up the dockets and dispose of numerous cases to the great advantage of litigants and all those involved in the cases on the dockets.

The other three amendments are designed to relieve the General Assembly of great masses of "chicken feed" legislation that is very trivial in its nature from the standpoint of the State at large and yet takes up the great majority of the time of the sessions of the Legislature and of the individual members, who are biennially loaded down with this class of legislation to such an extent as to make it impossible for them to give proper and necessary study, time and thought to the consideration of larger matters of

State-wide application, interest and concern, resulting often in the turning out of "half baked" legislation that affects all the people of the State. Under the present system it is a fact that the great majority of the members of the legislature spend most of their time and give most of their thought to looking after those innumerable "little bills" that are of no interest or concern to anybody outside of their own counties. When a few individual members of large calibre put forward a measure of great importance to the whole State, it is with great difficulty that they ever succeed in getting the members generally to give the subject thoughtful consideration, not that the members are indifferent, but that their time is so completely filled looking after the "little bills" from home.

The three amendments proposed to remedy this situation are those (1) restricting local, private and special legislation, (2) preventing special charters to towns, cities and incorporated villages. All this class of legislation would be shifted to local authorities in the respective counties, which ought not to be opposed by those who are consistent and constant advocates of "local government."

It is a fact that the individual counties hold their respective representatives in the Legislature responsible for all the local legislation affecting their counties, or communities within their counties. It is not infrequent that one hears such expressions as "our representative in the last Legislature passed" such and such a bill. In almost 99 cases out of 100 the Legislature does what the individual representative wants done respecting matters that affect only his own county and for all practical purposes the bills of this class are passed by the individual representatives. Therefore, it would seem that the individual counties would not seriously object to having their boards of commissioners or some other elective body of their own citizens pass upon these local matters instead of sending a man to Raleigh to do the same thing, but calling into play the whole vast machinery of the entire General Assembly, with the consequent expense to the State, to pass thousands of bills solely upon the request of individual members without regard to the merits of the measure.—Wilmington Star.

POLAND DOES NOT SUFFER FOR FOOD

Warsaw, Aug. 21.—Crops are especially excellent in Poland and there is apparently plenty of food, although the poor complain that they have not tasted meat for a year. After a year of German occupation, the city is gay and busy, although the factories are all closed. The Germans are building an eight million dollar highway system around this section to facilitate the marketing of crops.

WILSON PLEADS WITH R. R. HEADS TO ACCEPT PLAN

(Continued from Page 1.)
ity are interfered with. The lives and fortunes of 100,000,000, men, women and little ones—many of whom may die—depend upon what may be done in this room. I appeal to you as one American citizen to another to avert this disaster."

THE PRESIDENT SPEAKS

The President has virtually commanded the railroads to accept the principle of the eight-hour day. He has taken this stand after going over the whole problem, first with the managers and then with the men. He has had a more thorough insight into the whole situation than any other outsider possibly could. Considering these things the public is likely to conclude that he knows what he is talking about, and that the principle of the eight-hour day is the thing. Under these circumstances, there is but one thing for the railroads to do—obey. The President is the representative of the people, and what he says the people will back up. They are in no mood for trifling. They do not intend to be ruined by a general strike, and the sooner the parties to the dispute understand the people's mood, the better for all concerned.

The railroads will be justified in appealing to the government for permission to raise rates if they can show that the cost of following the President's advice is greater than their present revenues will stand. The principle of the eight hour day is here to stay. If the railroad terminals are so arranged that the principle cannot be put into effect, the terminals must be changed. That is another charge that will have to be put upon the people. We can stand an increase in transportation rates, if we must; the point is, we cannot stand a general strike. That must be averted at any cost.

It must be said for the men that they appear to be willing to go half way to do that. In the interest of peace they have yielded their contention for time and a half, and, if the eight-hour principle is adopted, stand ready to arbitrate the rest of the differences. They have never wanted a strike merely for the fun of it; in particular the southern members have looked upon the possibility of such a catastrophe with unconcealed anxiety. In the present status of affairs if a strike is precipitated the blame will lie at the door of the companies; and it will not be a light matter. The American public is not willing to inflict any injustice on anybody. But neither does it intend to be trampled ground. The President has indicated a

into the mud of an industrial battle-way to avoid that. It will be a perilous thing for the railroads to reject his advice.—Greensboro News.

NOTICE.

By virtue of the power vested in me by degree of the Court in that Special Proceeding, pending in the Superior Court at Halifax County, North Carolina, and entitled "R. G. Allsbrook, Adm'r of Allen Mabry, Jr., deceased, against Lizzie Mabry Knight and Maggie Lee Mabry, the last two being infants, without guardian of Allen Mabry, Jr., deceased." I will on the 2nd day of September, 1916, sell for cash at public auction to the highest bidder in the town of Hobgood, N. C., in front of the Bank of Hobgood, at 11 o'clock, a. m., the following described real estate, lying and being in Halifax County, North Carolina, to wit:

Beginning at a stake on the Hobgood Tarboro Road; thence along said road S. 40 1/2 W., 4 78-100 chains to a stake on said road (This stake lies S. 60 3/4 W., from a large elm in Allen Mabry's yard); thence S. 18 W., 52.25

chains to a gum in the Downing line; thence along said line, N. 45 E., 7.91 chains to the dividing line; thence along said line N. 18 W., 46.96 chains, S. 71 1/2 W., 1.40 chains N. 37 W., 4.50 chains, to the beginning, containing thirty six acres, being the same land allotted to Allen Mabry, Jr., in the judgment in that action entitled Allen Mabry, Jr., by his general guardian, Hugh Johnson, vs. Allen Mabry, Sr., said judgment being docketed in the office of the Clerk of the Superior Court at Halifax County, North Carolina, in Judgment Docket No. 10 on page 211. This the 31st day of July, 1916. STUART SMITH, Commissioner.

FOXES ARE BAD.

Mr. Rufus Cherry was in town Saturday and remarked to the writer that foxes were playing havoc with his chickens. "You know," said Mr. Cherry, "I found at least half a dozen grown fowls buried in the cotton patch near the house which were put there by foxes." Mr. Cherry is under the impression that there is a regular kennel of reynards near his home.

It Always Helps

says Mrs. Sylvania Woods, of Clifton Mills, Ky., in writing of her experience with Cardui, the woman's tonic. She says further: "Before I began to use Cardui, my back and head would hurt so bad, I thought the pain would kill me. I was hardly able to do any of my housework. After taking three bottles of Cardui, I began to feel like a new woman. I soon gained 35 pounds, and now, I do all my housework, as well as run a big water mill. I wish every suffering woman would give

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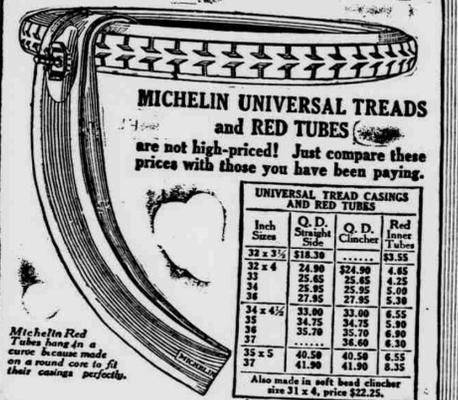
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